

★ news release

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NEW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND ADDITIONS TO TWO EXISTING
REFUGES AUTHORIZED BY MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The new area, called the UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge, lies on the Missouri River near the western end of Fort Peck Reservoir. The UL, with its large area, has great wildlife potential, particularly for production of waterfowl.

State and private lands totaling 12,088 acres will be purchased for UL Bend and added to the 44,848 acres already in Federal ownership.

An addition of 1,463 acres for Coastal Maine National Wildlife Refuge on Maine's southern coast will help preserve vital nesting and resting areas for migratory birds. Originally authorized by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission in July 1966, the refuge is a joint effort with the State to save segments of coastal marsh threatened by garbage fills, marinas, and harbor projects.

Also approved by the Commission at its February 7 meeting in Washington, D.C., was a 2-acre headquarters site for Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge,

north of Soda Springs, Idaho, and the purchase of easements on 27 acres near Grays Lake for dikes and access roads.

Because of Colorado Land Board regulations, earlier Commission approval to purchase 611 acres of State lands for Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge in the San Luis Valley was changed to an annual leasing arrangement, pending land exchange agreements.

Members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission are Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, Chairman, Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Commerce John T. Connor, Senators Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska and Lee Metcalf of Montana, and Representatives Frank M. Karsten of Missouri and Silvio O. Conte of Massachusetts.

Ex-officio members of the Commission on February 7, representing some of the States where acquisitions were discussed, were: Ronald Speers, director of Maine's wildlife agency; Nelson Cox, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; Wynn Freeman, Montana Department of Fish and Game; and Harry J. Figge, Colorado Game Fish and Parks department.

Total approved costs were \$965,757. Funds for acquisition of these areas come from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps.

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